

VACATION TIPS

While away on vacation:

- Most important, make your house appear that someone is always home.
- Do not stop your mail and newspaper. Have a trusted neighbor pick them up each day.
- Have your blinds and curtains open during the day, and closed at night.
- On garbage pickup day, have a neighbor take out your trash containers.
- If you have a second car, leave it in the driveway. A car in the driveway tells the potential burglar that someone may be home.
- If you have a garage door with an electric opener, unplug it and also make sure that you lock it.
- Use timers on lights, radios, TV's, etc., and set them to go on and off at different times.
- Turn off the ringers on your phones. Most phones come with switches to either lower the volume of ringers or turn them off all together.
- If you're going to be gone for any length of time, make arrangements to have your lawn mowed or snow plowed to give the appearance that the home is occupied and in use.

Personal safety while on vacation:

- Carry your purse close to your body, your wallet in an inside pocket, or wear a money pouch under your clothes.
- Watch out for staged mishaps like someone bumping into you or spilling a drink. Often it is a ploy to divert your attention.
- Avoid displaying expensive cameras, jewelry, or luggage that might draw attention. Your aim should be to blend into the crowd.
- Park in well-lighted areas, have your car keys ready when you approach your car, and check the back seat and floors before you get in.
- Never leave your luggage unattended. Do not place your home address openly visible on your luggage tags. Ideally a cell phone number or other contact numbers should be listed. These tags are mainly for lost luggage return and you want to identify a number where you can be reached, not give airline or airport personnel or others easy access to your home address.
- Before taking a cab, ask the hotel staff about directions and estimated costs.